

## SUPERVISORS CHAT – WORK at Height November 2020

### Fall from heights – General

Work at heights requires the following:

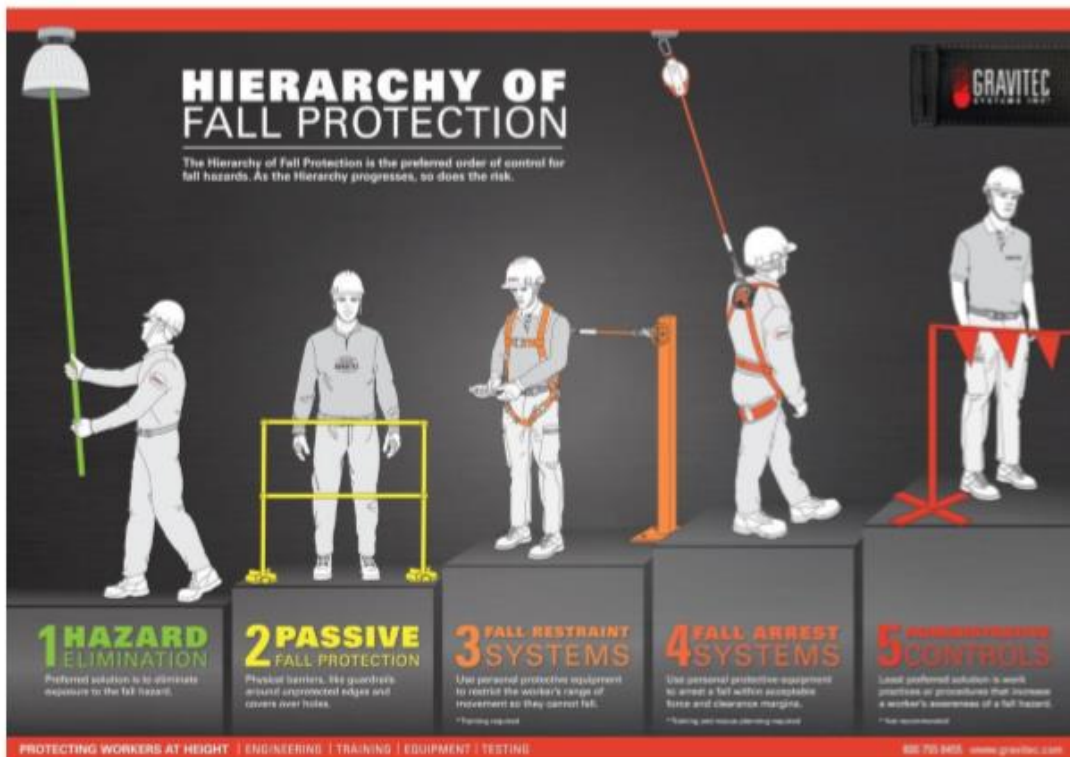
SWMS – outlining fall control risks and control measures to be used if work is occurring above 2m in height. Control measures are to be selected in accordance with the hierarchy of controls.

If there is no SWMS in place specific to the job site works are to stop until a SWMS is completed by the contractor.

Prior to work

- Assess critical angle of roof pitch
- Assess material of roof (brittle, asbestos, sky lights)
- Identify damaged solar panelling and isolate.
- Assess internal fall control measures (mesh is to be assessed by a suitably qualified person). Sky lights are to be fitted with barriers to prevent falling through e.g. fall mesh or guarding.

### Controlling fall from heights – Hierarchy of Control



**Roof Guard Rail** – installed for roof works such as solar panel install, roof installation (metal and tile), and repairs. It comes in various types with under eave uprights, clamped to roof surface (metal), and screwed into the roof trusses.



**Ground Up Guardrail** – installed where it is not possible to attach the guard rail to the roof e.g. parapet designs



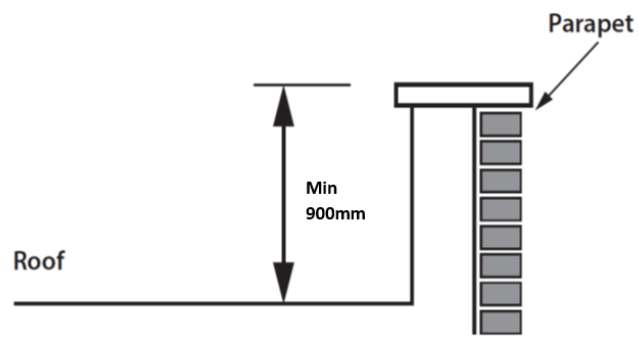
### Balcony Guard Railing

Works on a balcony require fall protection. When works are occurring using a ladder on a balcony the balcony guard railing will need to be sufficiently high to prevent a fall over the balcony.



### Fixed Structures - Parapets

Works on roof structures with parapets need to be assessed for the height of the parapet (900mm) and the integral strength of the parapet e.g. timber versus brick/steel. Parapets below 900mm will require additional edge protection such as guard railing or ground up guard rail.



### Fixing Roofing Battens & Roofing Materials

Battens and roof installation on residential roofs is only able to occur when roof trusses are 600mm centre otherwise internal fall control measures are required. Battens should be 900mm centred.

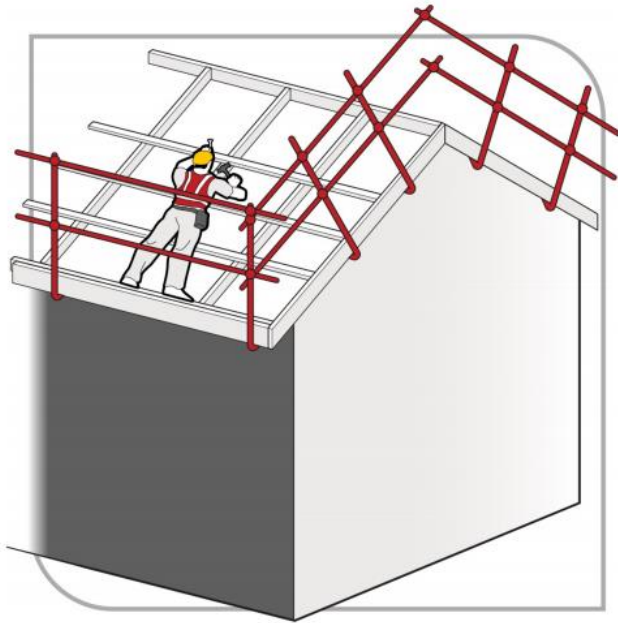
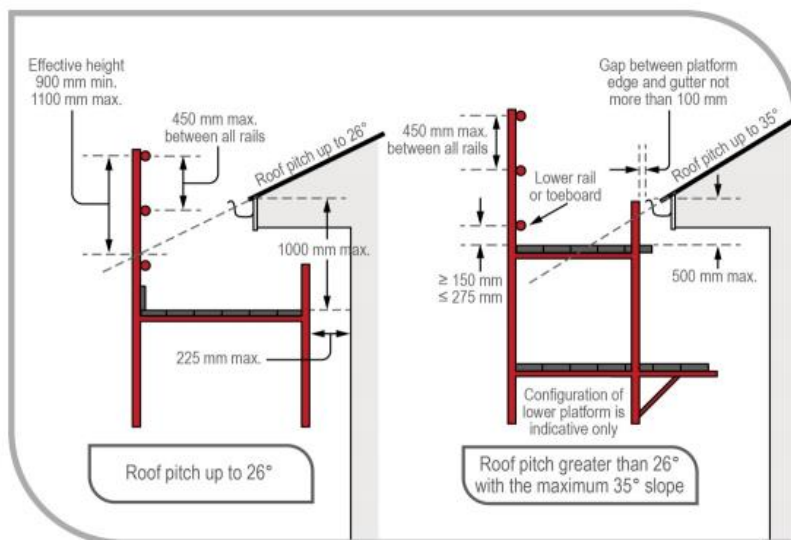


Figure 27 Fixing roof battens to trusses

### Fixing Roofing Materials – Catch Platforms

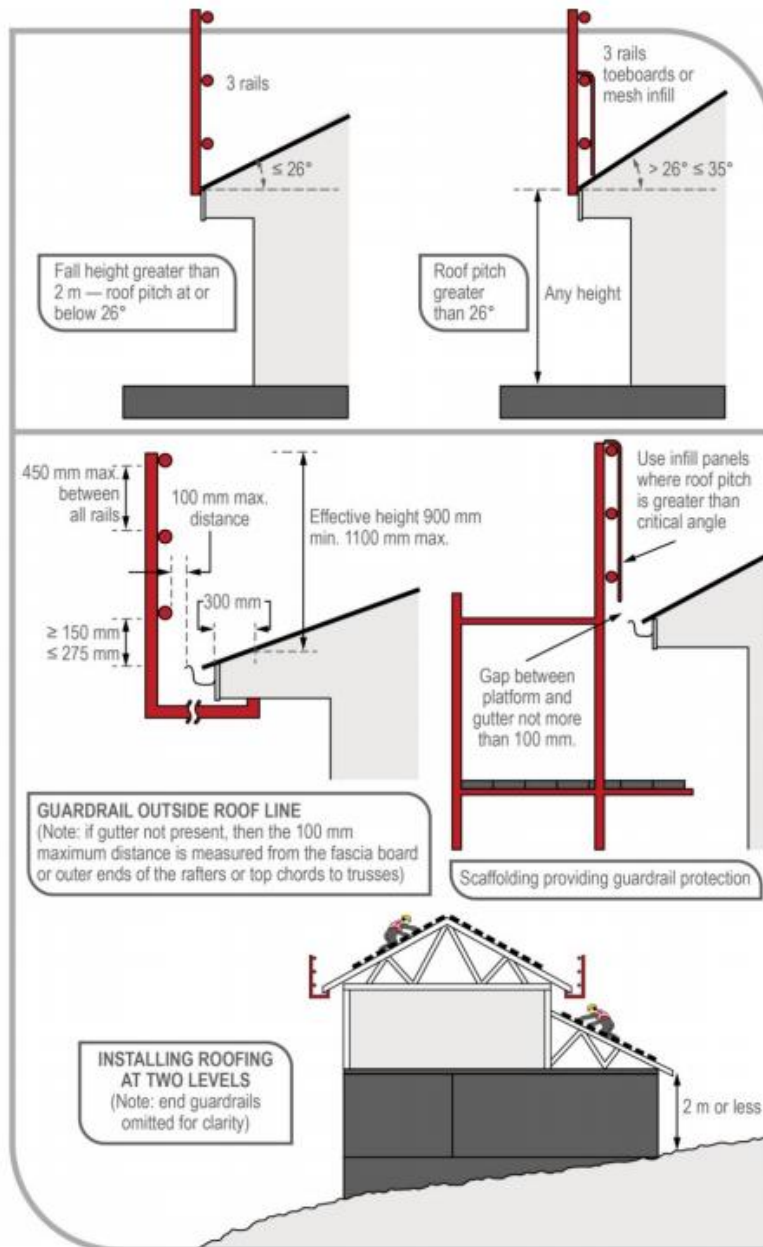
Critical angle is to be considered in the use of catch platforms and scaffold



## Fixing Roofing - Guard railing Systems for Roof Work

Roof guardrail is an effective control measure for work at heights:

- To be installed by competent installer and certificate provided
- Assess roof for pitch and install mesh in fill if required.
- Access points to be identified for installation of ladders.



## Fall Arrest and Restraint Harness

Should only be used when it is not practical to install any other risk control measures to control fall hazards (eg: scaffold, guard rail) When being used, the following needs to be considered:

- Restraint: worker prevented from coming into close proximity to the edge by the rope system (lanyard is shorter than the distance to unprotected edge)
- Arrest: free fall is possible and system is designed to arrest the fall after a maximum of 2 meters. There needs to be enough distance between the work area and surface below to allow the shock absorber to fully deploy.
- Area where works are to occur needs to be assessed for the pendulum effect. Secure anchor points, swing down, swing back and other obstructions.

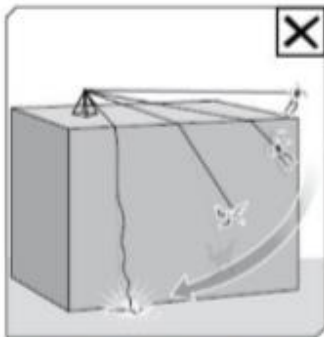


Figure 37: During 'swing down' the length of the lanyard and positioning of the anchor allow contact with the ground.

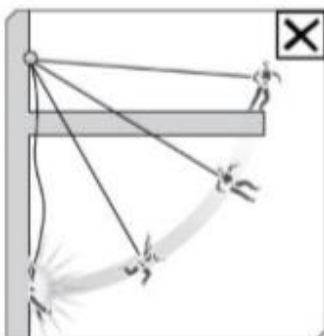


Figure 38: During 'swing back' the worker may hit the structure.



